



Franklin County Budget Hearing

Brief by FCEM&HS Director Michael R. Pannell

November 29, 2011

Introduction



Members of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners:

As we progress through my fourth year as director of Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS), the Agency continues to make bold, continual improvements in efficiency and effectiveness for the citizens of Franklin County.

Following are highlights of the Agency's top accomplishments in 2011, as well as projects the Agency will continue, expand or begin in 2012.

- The Agency's work this year included updating and distributing the **Hazardous Materials Incident Annex** (a component of the Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan) according to requirements outlined in Ohio Revised Code 3750.04, receiving full concurrence from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA).

The State Emergency Response Commission will be asked to concur with the plan in December.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)



- FCEM&HS completed a year-long planning process in 2011 to develop a risk-based **Regional Training and Exercise Strategy** to improve the region's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from all hazards.

The purpose of the Strategy is to coordinate regional training and exercises, expand regional collaboration, and more efficiently use Federal, State and local funding and resources to enhance regional preparedness.

As part of Strategy implementation, FCEM&HS formed the Regional Training and Exercise Committee (RTEC), which encompasses the Emergency Management Directors in the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Counties, including Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Pickaway, and Union.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)



- FCEM&HS began using **Social Media** as a tool for emergency information and preparedness education when the Agency launched its Twitter function in the spring of 2011.

The FCEM&HS Twitter site serves the public as new, highly-accessible channel of communication in regard to preparedness, warnings, emergency protective actions, and pertinent news about the Agency.

The public can follow FCEM&HS at www.twitter.com/fcemhs. We have more than 530 followers, and the list grows each week.

- FCEM&HS reconvened a committee of local subject matter experts in the care of persons with **Functional Needs** to review new FEMA guidance and amendments to the American Red Cross policies regarding the emergency sheltering of residents with functional needs. This committee's work will occur in 2012.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)



- FCEM&HS significantly improved technological capabilities in the Franklin County **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**.

Through the use of Fiscal Year 2010 EMPG Special Project Grant funds, FCEM&HS modernized the Franklin County EOC, Assessment Room and Joint Information Center/Training Room by installing new computers, high definition (HD) projectors and screens, preview/touch monitors, enhanced control systems, SmartBoards, and HD television monitors.

This modernization will allow for faster collection, display, and dissemination of critical information during emergencies; enhance the EOC's common operational picture; and improve multi-agency response and recovery coordination.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)



- FCEM&HS made significant enhancements in 2011 to the **Outdoor Warning Sirens (OWS)**.

Improvements to the OWS system include modifying the siren activation radio for improved signal strength and reliability.

FCEM&HS also began conducting audible siren tests during regular maintenance in the field.

The Agency performed a detailed inspection at all three repeater sites and made needed improvements in November, work that will continue through December.

- FCEM&HS in 2011 developed a **Narrow Banding Program** for the Outdoor Warning Siren system.

This program was created to address the Federal Communications Commission non-funded mandate requiring all wide band licensees convert to narrow band by January 2013.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)



- FCEM&HS utilized a \$58,664 grant to work with local jurisdictions to update the Franklin County **Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan** as required by 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201.
- Many of the Agency's accomplishments in 2011 are the result of **Grant Funding**. For every one dollar contributed by jurisdictions to the agency's operational fund, FCEM&HS was awarded approximately \$2.32 in grant funds – a significant return on investment.

Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG) Special Project and Supplemental grants helped pay for the upgrades in the Emergency Operations Center.

A Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning (HMEP) grant and a Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) grant funded emergency response trainings for 244 local first responders.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)



FCEM&HS received a Citizen Corps Council grant to conduct a CERT Train-the-Trainer course, enabling the Agency to train 25 volunteers as CERT Trainers.

Two new grant awards from OEMA are for pilot programs – Integrated Risk Management (IRM) and Resource Management – whose templates and best practices will be shared with the other 87 counties in Ohio. This is discussed in more detail below.

- This year FCEM&HS received two grants from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, totaling \$217,000, to produce **Best Practices** documents designed to be used as models throughout the State of Ohio.

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd)



One project is focused on Integrated Risk Management and will produce a guide for local jurisdiction leaders on integrating risk management into their decision making processes. The federal Department of Homeland Security will assist on this project.

The second project is to develop a robust resource management program in full compliance with federal standards that can be used by other counties throughout Ohio.

Highlighted below are some of the projects FCEM&HS will focus on in 2012:

- FCEM&HS will focus on **Operation Flood Fight** in 2012 in support of the City of Columbus's ongoing preparedness efforts to protect the Franklinton area in the event of catastrophic flooding.

2012 GOALS



This program will involve the recruiting, training and exercising of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers to support sandbagging operations at up to six key locations along the Franklinton Floodwall.

- The City of Columbus and FCEM&HS have requested a \$150,000 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant for expert assistance to write a needs assessment and system requirements for a unified, countywide **Mass Notification System**. Depending on funding availability, the findings will be used to develop a Request for Proposal in 2012.

FCEM&HS and the City of Columbus took a first step in the summer of 2011 by conducting a preliminary assessment of multiple mass notification systems throughout Franklin County.

2012 GOALS (cont'd)



This study, conducted by Battelle, examined capabilities and costs of various local systems vs. unified systems used elsewhere in U.S. and available for purchase.

The study highly recommended that unifying our local systems, with jurisdiction opt-in, would markedly increase effectiveness and reduce costs in this area.

- FCEM&HS will develop an online **Training and Exercise Portal** in 2012 to provide a one-stop shop for emergency management/homeland security training and exercises in the region.

The portal will include an online calendar allowing first responders to track upcoming training and exercises and register via the internet. The portal will streamline the training and exercise process, resulting in time and cost efficiencies.

2012 GOALS (cont'd)



- FCEM&HS will work in 2012 to make substantial improvements to the current **Functional Needs Sheltering Plan** based upon newly released guidance and policy changes at the Federal Level.

This updated plan will provide a framework for ensuring the best care possible in serving citizens with functional needs during emergencies and disasters.

- FCEM&HS will utilize a \$120,000 grant from OEMA in 2012 to make enhancements to the current Risk Assessment for Franklin County and develop a process to help incorporate the most modern principles and practices of **Integrated Risk Management** into leadership decision-making at the local level.

The program will create a written document for OEMA to use to guide how to integrate risk management at the local level, for use by counties throughout the State of Ohio.

2012 GOALS (cont'd)



- FCEM&HS will utilize a \$97,000 grant from OEMA to make upgrades and develop best practices in **Resource Management**.
The program will create a written document for OEMA to use to guide how to best manage emergency resources at the local level, for use by counties throughout the State of Ohio.
- FCEM&HS is ahead of schedule in meeting the January 2013 FCC **Narrow Band Mandate**.
Currently, 21 of the 172 Outdoor Warning Sirens radios have been successfully converted from wide band to narrow band.
Installation of all narrow band radios will be completed by summer of 2012, ahead of the January 1, 2013 federal deadline.

2012 GOALS (cont'd)



- FCEM&HS will focus on **Deaf Community Outreach** to find ways the Agency can best communicate with the Central Ohio deaf community before, during and after a disaster in Franklin County. FCEM&HS will be joined in this effort by the Central Ohio-based Deaf Services Center, the Ohio State School for the Deaf, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA), and others.
In the meantime, FCEM&HS will continue its Somali community outreach and numerous other emergency public information projects at the Agency.

2012 GOALS (cont'd)



- The Agency will utilize grant funds to conduct a **Functional Exercise** of the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center.

The exercise will be conducted in early November 2012 and will involve multiple jurisdictions in Franklin County and at least one other County in the MSA.

The scenario will incorporate the Limited English Proficiency population, emergency partners, functional needs and public affairs.

Additionally, the Fusion Center, Franklin County Sherriff's Office, and the Columbus Division of Police are being recruited to test information-sharing with FCEM&HS.

2012 GOALS (cont'd)



- The Director will complete coursework in 2012 in the **Homeland Security Executive Leaders Program** at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

The program is operated in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Directorate.

It provides an educational forum to enhance senior leaders' capacity and networks to identify and resolve homeland security problems and help strengthen national security at all levels of government across the country.

The program has already provided invaluable perspective to FCEM&HS regarding the successes, failures and emerging issues facing the national homeland security enterprise, of which every elected official, emergency manager and uniformed officer in Franklin County is a part.

2012 GOALS (cont'd)



The Agency's recent accomplishments and future goals reflect our determination to continue making profound, positive changes to improve FCEM&HS and help make Franklin County safer and better prepared for emergencies and disasters.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

For more details about the Agency's accomplishments in 2011 and plans for 2012, please refer to this and other related documents posted on our website, www.franklincountyohio.gov/emahs.

